GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1158
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2002
SUBSIDY FOR PILGRIMAGE
ANANTRAO GUDHE

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are granting subsidy to the Haj Pilgrims for their air journeys;

(b) if so, whether any such proposal is under consideration of the Government in respect of Pilgrims who visit Amarnath, Vaishno Devi, Tirupati, Kailash Mansarovar etc., for the grant of subsidy for their air/road/rail journeys;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a): Ministry of Civil Aviation has been granting subsidy to the Haj Pilgrims for part of the cost of their air journey to Saudi Arabia.

(b) to (d): As regards the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra along traditional route across Lipulekh Pass, Ministry of External Affairs provides Rs. 3250 per Yatri to Kumaon Mandal Nigam (KMVN) to partially offset the expenditure incurred by the Yatris towards boarding and lodging on the Indian side. Government provides free medical inspection and assistance, and security and escort cover upto Lipulekh Pass; insurance cover and communication links for the duration of the Yatra. A Liaison Officer is attached to each batch of Yatris. The Delhi Government provides free stay to Yatris at Ashok Yatri Niwas in New Delhi for 4-5 days during the onward and return journey.

Arrangements for pilgrimage to Amarnath, Vaishno Devi and Tirupati are made/coordinated by concerned shrine boards and State Governments respectively.